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1. Since the beginning of November 1952 the East German criminal police, in close cooperation with the Ministry for State Security, has been undergoing a reorganization. **In the course of the reorganization, a so-called Missing Persons Department West (Abteilung Fahndung West) was established in each Bezirk criminal police inspectorate.** Although nominally under the criminal police, these departments are actually controlled by the Ministry for State Security, since all leading personnel, with the exception of the technical service, are employees of the Ministry.

2. Only the technical service is staffed with experts from the former Missing persons' departments (Fahndungsabteilungen) and Investigative Service (Irkennungsdienst). Duties of the new Department West include controlling letters and packages from West Germany and West Berlin, conducting searches for persons who have fled East Germany, procuring evidence necessary to initiate extradition proceedings against persons in West Germany, and placing restrictions on the freedom of those persons who are suspected of preparing to flee the country.

3. The central office of the Missing Persons Department West is under construction in Berlin-Gruenau, Regattastrasse. In order to strengthen the Technical Service, experts were transferred to Berlin after the dissolution of the Land criminal police; no members of the East Berlin criminal police were accepted into the Technical Service. In contrast to its former modus operandi, the Technical Service is now completely separated operationally from the Investigative Service Personnel in the Technical Service now know nothing of the people in the West against whom they are taking action. All findings (Feststellungen) of the Technical Service are listed under code numbers.

4. The Technical Service is responsible for trying to lift fingerprints off correspondence from West Berlin offices in the attempt to find out the table of organization of these offices. Samples of handwriting from letters written to persons in the East from Western cover addresses are also investigated.

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